IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A content management system comprising:

a first acceptance unit which accepts a storage request including a content ID to identify a content;

a storage unit which, based on the storage request, records reference data which is used to make reference to the content and the content ID in a recording unit in association with each other when the content has been already recorded in the recording unit, and records the content and the content ID in the recording unit in association with each other when the content is not yet recorded;

a second acceptance unit which accepts an acquisition request including the content ID;

a unit which reads the content from the recording unit based on the acquisition request;

and a unit which distributes the content read based on the acquisition request to an acquisition request issuer.

Claim 2 (Original): The content management system according to claim 1, wherein, when the content is not yet recorded in the recording unit, the storage unit requests a storage request issuer for the content, and records the content accepted from the storage request issuer and the content ID in the recording unit in association with each other.

Claim 3 (Original): The content management system according to claim 1, wherein the first acceptance unit accepts the storage request and the content.

Claim 4 (Original): A content management system comprising:

a unit which accepts a storage request including change content obtained by changing

content whose utilization restriction is released by right data and a content ID to identify the

content;

a unit which, based on the storage request, makes reference to a recording unit which

records utilization restricting data used to restrict the utilization of the content and the content

ID in association with each other to create a storage content obtained by restricting the use of

the change content by using the utilization restricting data;

a storage unit which issues a storage content ID to identify the storage content,

provides a storage request issuer with the storage content ID, and records in the recording

unit the storage content ID and the storage content in association with each other;

a unit which accepts an acquisition request including the storage content ID;

a unit which reads the storage content from the recording unit based on the acquisition

request; and

a unit which distributes the storage content read based on the acquisition request to an

acquisition request issuer.

Claim 5 (Original): The content management system according to claim 4, wherein

the storage unit issues the storage content ID, provides the storage request issuer with the

storage content ID and records the storage content ID and the storage content in the recording

unit in association with each other when the storage content and the storage content ID are

not yet recorded in the recording unit in association with each other, and records reference

data which is used to make reference to the storage content and the storage content ID in the

recording unit in association with each other when the storage content and the storage content

ID have been already recorded in the recording unit in association with each other.

Claim 6 (Original): A content management system comprising:

a unit which accepts a storage request including a content ID to identify a content whose utilization restriction is released by right data and positional data of a partial content as a part of the content with respect to the content;

a unit which, based on the storage request, makes reference to a recording unit which records utilization restricting data used to restrict the use of the content, the content ID and the content in association with each other to create a partial content from the content and the positional data and create a storage content obtained by restricting the use of the partial content by using the utilization restricting data;

a storage unit which issues a storage content ID to identify the storage content, provides a storage request issuer with the storage content ID, and records the storage content ID and the storage content in the recording unit in association with each other;

a unit which accepts an acquisition request including the storage content ID;

a unit which reads the storage content from the recording unit based on the acquisition request; and

a unit which distributes the storage content read based on the acquisition request to an acquisition request issuer.

Claim 7 (Original): The content management system according to claim 6, wherein the storage unit issues the storage content ID, provides the storage request issuer with the storage content ID and records the storage content ID and the storage content in the recording unit in association with each other when the storage content and the storage content ID are not yet recorded in the recording unit in association with each other, and records reference

data which is used to make reference to the storage content and the storage content ID in the

recording unit in association with each other when the storage content and the storage content

ID have been already recorded in the recording unit in association with each other.

Claim 8 (Original): A user system comprising:

a unit which provides a content management system which stores a content with a

storage request including a content ID to identify the content;

a unit which accepts a request for the content from the content management system

and provides the content management system with the content when the content management

system does not yet record the content based on the storage request;

a unit which provides the content management system with an acquisition request

including the content ID; and

a unit which accepts the content from the content management system in accordance

with the acquisition request.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Original): A content distribution system which stores in a content

management system a content distributed from a content provision system to a user system,

the content management system comprising:

a first acceptance unit which accepts a storage request including a content ID to

identify the content;

a storage unit which, based on the storage request, records reference data which is

used to make reference to the content and the content ID in a recording unit in association

with each other when the content has been already recorded in the recording unit, and records

the content and the content ID in the recording unit in association with each other when the

content is not yet recorded in the recording unit;

a second acceptance unit which accepts an acquisition request including the content

ID;

a unit which reads the content from the recording unit based on the acquisition

request; and

a unit which distributes the content read based on the acquisition request to an

acquisition request issuer,

the user system comprising:

a unit which provides the content management system with the storage request;

a unit which provides the content management system with the acquisition request;

and

a unit which accepts the content from the content management system in accordance

with the acquisition request.

Claim 11 (Original): The content distribution system according to claim 10, wherein

the storage unit requests a storage request issuer for the content and records the content

accepted from the storage request issuer and the content ID in the recording unit in

association with each other when the content is not yet recorded in the recording unit, and

the user system further comprises a unit which provides the content management

system with the content when a request for the content is accepted from the content

management system.

Claim 12 (Original): The content distribution system according to claim 10, wherein the first acceptance unit accepts the acquisition request and the content.

Claim 13-17 (Canceled).